

# YOUR FOREST YOUR ADVENTURE

SPRING  
2006



## Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road  
PO Box 467  
Fairdale, KY  
40118

502/368-5404

forest@louisvilleky.gov  
parks@louisvilleky.gov  
www.memorialforest.com  
www.metro-parks.org

### Welcome Center

Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center  
is your destination  
for maps, gift items,  
program reservations,  
camping reservations,  
permits and  
interpretation.

### Directions

From I-65 south take the  
Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265)  
west and exit at New Cut Road.  
Turn left, go about one mile,  
and turn right onto  
Mitchell Hill Road.  
Follow the signs to the Forest.

### Mission Statement

Metro Parks' mission  
is to provide safe, diverse  
park and recreation facilities  
and programs for all the  
people of Louisville Metro  
to use and enjoy  
and to keep those lands  
and resources in trust  
for future generations.

Jefferson Memorial Forest has frequently been regarded as Jefferson County's "best-kept secret." We are intent on moving beyond this perception in order to help the Forest realize its potential as a regional nature preserve offering the highest quality environmental education, public programs, and outdoor recreational pursuits. Since merger in 2003, we have been raising the Forest's profile by focusing on improving the visitor experience through improved programs and improved visitor amenities. This year should prove to be a breakout year for the Forest in that regard!

This season the Forest is offering an expanded number of outdoor events including hikes sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Special Events in April and October; the annual Forest Fest bluegrass and woodcraft festival in May; and our annual Snake Appreciation Day in September. We also are gearing up for our summer camp season in June and July.

In the spring, visitors will notice new directional signage throughout the Forest leading from the Gene Snyder Freeway. In the coming year work will begin on a Forest Master Plan. This plan will provide a blueprint for future forest development,

ranging from state of the art educational facilities to improved recreational amenities throughout the preserve.

There is another reason we hope to share the secret of the Forest. Although relative anonymity over the years may have meant the Forest has avoided becoming "over-loved," it has also meant that some of the resource management issues facing the Forest have been under-appreciated through the years and thus inadequately addressed. A few of the issues worth mentioning include severe erosion along many of the historical trails at the Forest; ever-marching "invasive" species that threaten native vegetation and can degrade wildlife habitat for native species; and such issues as dumping and encroachment along the Forest's boundaries. By raising awareness of the Forest and its role as a nature preserve in the community, we will build additional support to help us improve our ability to meet our stewardship goals as we move forward. We certainly look forward to your patronage in 2006 and as always we hope you will share your opinions and suggestions with us on how we may serve you better.



Forest Fest 2005



## NATURE NOTES FOR APRIL THROUGH JUNE

Anyone can be a naturalist. Webster's Dictionary defines a naturalist "as a student of natural history." To be a naturalist, all you need is curiosity and a few good field guides. In each issue of the newsletter, Naturalist Christa Weidner and Recreation Coordinator James Crockett will provide readers with a few tips on observing the natural world of the Forest. We hope to see you out here!

### APRIL

April is a great month for wildflower viewing. In the early part of the month, look for star chickweed, bluets, blue phlox, dutchman's breeches, yellow trout lilies, various violet species, celandine poppies, twinleaf, bloodroot, yellow corydalis, mayapples and the interesting flowers of blue cohosh.

By mid-month, you will be able to find the flowers of wood betony, violet wood sorrel, dwarf dandelions, bluebells, jack-in-the-pulpit, tradescantia, and wild geranium. You can also see the spring foliage of wild ginger, grape, dutchman's breeches and rattlesnake ferns.

The trails in the Horine Reservation are a good place to see these lovely flowers. Please remember not to pick or dig up any of the flowers you find, but leave them for others to see; a plant with its flowers all picked cannot reproduce. Many nurseries carry domesticated cultivars of these plants that are better suited to your yard.

Tanagers also arrive and begin establishing territories by singing from prominent treetops. Good viewing spots are around Tom Wallace Lake and in the trees near the dam at Mitchell Hill Lake. Scarlet tanagers have black wings and summer tanagers have red. Prairie warblers sing in the thicketed areas near the parking lot at the Horine Section. Follow their songs and look for them in the brush. Often they will go to the tops of small cherry trees in this area to feed on insects. Also, watch in this area also for blue-grey gnatcatchers as these tiny, buzzy birds flit around.

Red-winged blackbirds build their nests in vegetation emerging from ponds and wet shallow areas, especially in cattails. While the males are often conspicuous, the females are very well camouflaged as they sit on their nests. Look for redwings near the spillways of Tom Wallace Lake and Mitchell Hill Lake. Also look for Mallard hens building nests near the waters edge at this time.

Fox kits born earlier in the year are just beginning to emerge out of the den to play. Young foxes differ from coyote pups by having elliptical pupils like cats, while coyotes have round pupils like dogs.



*Tanager*

### MAY

Use your nose to find blooming locust trees. Maple-leaf and arrowwood viburnums, catalpas, and sassafras trees are also beginning to bloom. Watch out! Poison ivy has flowers now, too. Mulberry berries are ripening.

Lower to the ground look for the blooms of cinquefoil, squawroot, stonecrop, yellow wood-sorrel, puttyroot orchids, four-leafed milkweed, wild yam, wild hydrangeas, purple coneflower, yarrow and lyre-leafed sage.

At mid-month, orioles will be arriving and nesting. Look for them and their pendulous sack nests near the Welcome Center and Horine Conference Center yards.

Indigo buntings arrive early in the month, and by mid-month can be heard singing from prominent treetops in the morning. The pine row along the entrance road to the Horine Section is a good place to see them.

Mating ground beetles may be observed as they scurry over the leaf debris in the Forest. As beautiful as these large, green beetles are, resist the urge to pick one up as they do bite.

White-tailed deer fawns and striped skunks start being born this month.

### JUNE

Some June flowers to look for are St. John's wort, butterflyweed, spotted wintergreen, Indian physic, broad waterleaf, and Queen Anne's lace. On the roadsides, you may notice several other common flowers. Common mullein flowers grow on tall stalks where last year this biennial plant had only its velvety leaves. Chicory roots are used in parts of Europe to make tea, or as an additive to coffee. Horse nettles, which now have blooms, will later have yellow "cherries" that persist through the winter. While related to tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes, this plant's fruit is extremely poisonous.

Dragonflies are now emerging from ponds and streams. Many brilliant species can be observed at Mitchell Hill Lake.

Little brown bats give birth to their pups this month. They are a common species at the Forest. While the common name sounds descriptive of many species, it belongs to one, *Myotis lucifugus*.

*Little Brown Bat*



*White-tailed Deer*





The Bulldog Cafe presents

# FOREST FEST

**Bluegrass music, woodcrafters, and  
activities for the whole family.**

## Jefferson Memorial Forest

**12304 Holsclaw Hill Road  
Fairdale, Kentucky**

**FREE EVENT!**

For more info call 388-5404, ext. 0  
or online @ [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)

**DON'T MISS!**

**18mi Courier du Bois  
Team Relay Race, 8:00AM**

**Family Fun 5K, 10:30AM**

*For race info and to register online visit  
[www.cherokeeroadrunners.org](http://www.cherokeeroadrunners.org)*

**ENTER TO WIN!**

**A Martin DX-1 Rosewood Guitar  
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**FIRST QUALITY  
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**Bluegrass Music  
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**HOG OPERATION**



**STONE HOLLOW**



**KENTUCKY SASSAFRAS**



**THE OLD LOUISVILLE  
EXPRESS**

**MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**



**11AM - 8PM**



# Jefferson Memorial Forest Summer Adventure Camp 2006

By combining educational activities with traditional summer camp fun, your child age 7 to 12 will have an educational adventure to remember for a lifetime. Camp activities include nature study, crafts, science experiments, games, journaling, hikes and contact with the Forest's education animals.

Each session runs for one week, and each day begins promptly at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m.

## FOREST ADVENTURES

### June 5-9 and July 10-14

Is your child an explorer? Do they crave adventure? They are sure to find it here! Campers will explore the trails deep in the Forest, climb our Alpine Tower, and learn rappelling skills. They will also learn skills such as fire and shelter building, and using a map and compass.

## CREATURE TREKKING

### June 12-16 and July 17-21

Campers will explore a variety of habitats and learn about the creatures that call these places home. Campers will travel through the Forest, along the forest edge, across fields and meadows, into streams, and even take a field trip to Otter Creek Park, where they will meet creatures in their cave habitat. Campers will learn what to look for when tracking animals, and what the population of animals can tell us about ourselves and how we affect the world around us.

## AQUATIC HABITATS

### Dates: June 19-23 and July 24-28

Campers will explore and learn what a watershed is while discovering the incredible world of an aquatic ecosystem. Campers will be engaged in crafts, journaling, and science experiments. This camp includes a field trip to a small lake in a Metro Park that includes a canoe excursion. Life jackets will be provided and American Canoe Association-certified staff will accompany the campers in a 1:3 ratio. Parents are welcome to join their child for this field trip. Please note that children will be grouped as follows: ages 7 to 9 and ages 10 to 12.



## Registration

Sessions are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost for camp is \$95 per week, per child. Full payment and the registration form are required prior to the first day of camp. You will promptly be notified if a session is full or is cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. Confirmation will be e-mailed or mailed to you prior to the beginning of camp. If you would like your child to be grouped with a sibling or friend, please indicate this clearly on the registration form. This cannot be guaranteed if the children are in different age groups or if space is not available. Please note that sessions have various themes and repeat each month.

## Payment options and refunds

Price includes all camp supplies, water bottle, and small snack. Register with check by mail or by credit card over the phone. Make checks payable to Jefferson Memorial Forest. On the check, include the session dates that your child is attending on the check. Refunds, less a \$25 processing fee, are given only if a cancellation is made in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the first day of camp. If a camp is filled or cancelled, a full refund will be made to you. All camps are subject to maximum and minimum enrollment requirements.

## Drop-Off

Drop-off is located in the main parking lot of the Forest's Horine Section. Camp leaders will be there to greet campers each day. Drop-off will begin at 8:30 a.m. No camper is to be dropped off prior to 8:30 a.m.

## Pick-Up

Staff members will dismiss campers at the main parking lot at 4 p.m. Staff will stay with campers for 30 minutes. If a camper has not been picked up, the staff member will take them to the program office, located at the front of the Horine reservation to the left of the road as you come into the reservation.

For more information call the Forest Welcome Center at 368-5404 ext. 0  
or log on to our website at [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com).



# Jefferson Memorial Forest Summer Adventure Camp 2006 Registration

Cost: \$95 per child per week. Registration fee must accompany this registration form.  
When registering more than one child, send the information for each child on a separate form.  
Make checks payable to **Jefferson Memorial Forest**. Mail check and registration to:

**Jefferson Memorial Forest Summer Camp**  
PO Box 467  
Fairdale, KY 40118

## **Forest Adventures**

- ☐ June 5-9  
☐ July 10-14

## **Aquatic Habitats**

- ☐ June 19-23  
☐ July 24-28

## **Creature Trekking**

- ☐ June 12-16  
☐ July 17-21

*If you plan to attend a June session,  
note that July sessions are repeated  
from June sessions.*

Child's last name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's first name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: ☐ M ☐ F Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any health concerns, special needs or allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Jefferson Memorial Forest/Metro Parks to take any steps necessary to ensure my child's health in case of an emergency, including seeking medical treatment. My child has permission to go on all camp-sponsored field trips. I understand that transportation will be by van with a staff driver.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize Jefferson Memorial Forest/Metro Parks to use my child's name and/or photograph for educational and public relations purposes.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Payment**

☐ Check Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit Card: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa

Name on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

We offer programs for all ages.

Preregistration is required and a discount is offered for those who pay in advance.

For more information, log on to our website at [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com) or call the Welcome Center at 368-5404. Staff will be happy to make reservations, give directions, or provide you a complete schedule of our programs.

For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

### APRIL

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: SPRING WILDFLOWERS

**Sat, April 1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Learn to identify the colorful native wildflowers that bloom in the Forest each spring. A hike guided by a Metro Parks naturalist will be a part of the program. Participants are welcome to bring snacks and their own guidebooks. *Fee:* \$5 preregistered; \$7.50 day of the program

#### GARDENING IN THE FOREST'S NATIVE GARDENS

**Mon, April 3, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Must register by 3/31 for lunch**

**Mon, May 1, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Must register by 4/28 for lunch**

**Mon, June 5, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

**Must register by 6/2 for lunch**

Naturalist Christa Weidner will guide participants in projects teaching maintenance of our native and butterfly gardens. Participants will do light weeding, transplanting and pruning. Wear suitable clothes and closed-toed shoes. Participants are welcome to bring gloves, but we will have extras on hand and cold water will be provided. Seniors may order a box lunch when registering, for after the program. *Fee:* Free to seniors 60 and over; there is a \$4 charge for those 59 and younger, and a small donation to the Senior Nutrition Program is suggested.

#### APRIL FOOLS: ANIMAL MIMICRY

**Tue, April 4, 9:30-11 a.m.**

Bring your little ones to the Forest to discover the amazing ways animals trick each other. Many animals appear to be something they are not. Learn how they fool other animals and escape to safety. *Fee:* \$8 per child

#### SENIORS BIRDWATCHING PROGRAMS

Program meets at the Fairdale Playtatorium for shuttle service. A box lunch can be ordered when registering to be enjoyed after the program. *Fee:* Free to seniors 60 and over; there is a \$4 charge for those 59 and younger, and a small donation to the Senior Nutrition Program is suggested.

#### SENIORS SPRING BIRDWATCHING

**Mon, April 10, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Spring is here and birds are returning from southern regions to summer homes, so you may spot a few of them passing through. This outing will include an easy walk through forested areas and possibly a trip to Caperton Swamp. Box lunch can be ordered by 4/7.

#### SENIORS SUMMER BIRDWATCHING

**Mon, May 22, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

This program highlights identifying species by nests and eggs. The outing will include an easy walk through forested areas. Box lunch can be ordered by 5/19.

#### NIGHT HIKE: NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

**Fri, April 14, 7:30-10 p.m.**

Enjoy fun activities demonstrating how nocturnal animals use special adaptations for nighttime survival. *Fee:* \$5 preregistered; \$7.50 day of the program

#### HOWL AT THE MOON

**Fri, April 21, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Fri, May 19, 7-8:30 p.m.**

**Fri, June 16, 7-8:30 p.m.**

Come out for a romp through the woods with your dog. Keep in mind that you'll be around other dogs and people, so non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. *Fee:* \$5 per dog preregistered; \$7.50 day of the program

### MAY

#### THE SMALL, SMALL POND

**Tue, May 2, 9:30-11 a.m.**

Children will explore a pond ecosystem and meet all the critters that call it home, collecting specimens to study them under a magnifying glass.

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: CANOEING

**Sat, May 6, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

See the beauty of nature while paddling down a beautiful stream. You may bring sack lunches. For ages 7 and older; children must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Register early, space is limited to 16 participants, with a maximum of 10 adults. *Fee:* \$10

#### FROG CALLS AND TOAD SONGS

**Fri, May 12, 7:30-10 p.m.**

Forest staff will introduce you to common species of amphibians found in this area, teach you why their existence is crucial, and tell you how to identify them by their calls. You will even learn to make calls of your own to communicate with them. *Fee:* \$5 preregistered; \$7.50 day of the program

#### FOREST FEST

**Sat, May 20, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.**

Fun activities for the entire family: a fair showcasing the skills of area woodworkers, plus crafts and games for the kids provided by Radio Disney. Local bluegrass bands Stone Hollow, Hog Operation, Kentucky Sassafras, and The Old Louisville Express will perform, with down-home cooking provided by the Fairdale Lion's Club. The 18-mile Couriers Du Bois Relay Run and 5K Family Fun Run will also take place - for race information and registration go to [www.cherockeeroadrunners.org](http://www.cherockeeroadrunners.org). All who attend Forest Fest will have an opportunity to win a Martin DX-1 Rosewood Guitar valued at \$669, provided by First Quality Music. *Fee:* Free

Forest Fest is made possible and free to the public by the generous support of these Metro Council members and sponsors:

Rick Blackwell, District 12

Vicki Welch, District 13

Robert Henderson, District 14

Madonna Flood, District 24

Ron Weston

State Representative House District 37,

Former District 13 Councilman

The Bull Dog Cafe

Precision Built Homes

First Quality Music

Wal-Mart

Fairdale-McDaniel Funeral Home

Fairdale Lion's Club





## PUBLIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

### ALPINE TOWER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**Sat, May 27, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

**Sat, June 24, 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**

Challenge yourself on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased confidence from tackling this high altitude obstacle course. Program is for ages 10 and older; a parent or guardian must accompany those under 18. Please wear tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts with inseam greater than 5 inches. *Fee:* \$10 per person preregistered; \$15 day of the program. Limited to 18 participants

### JUNE

#### OUTDOOR SKILLS: ARCHERY

**Sat, June 3, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

National Field Archery Association-certified staff will introduce you to

Olympic style archery. Bow safety is stressed in a program for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and older must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. *Fee:* \$5 preregistered; \$7.50 day of the program

#### PRESCHOOL NATURE PROGRAMS

This program is for parents and children ages 2 to 4. There will be a short walk, storytime with crafts and snacks. Ask about series discounts. *Fee:* \$8 per child

#### WHAT'S BUZZIN'?

**Tue, June 6, 9:30-11 a.m.**

Students will discover why insects are important as our naturalist helps collect and identify everyday bugs. With pictures and activities, children will discover what characteristics make an insect.

### NIGHT HIKE: BATS

**Fri, June 9, 7:30-10 p.m.**

A creature stalks Louisville in the darkness, swiftly swooping in on hundreds of victims each night. Learn to separate the truth from the myths that surround these beneficial creatures.

#### FOREST FAMILY CAMPOUTS

Take a campout without all the packing and preparation. Let us do everything to provide your family with an evening of activities and entertainment; we'll have tents and freshly-laundered sleeping bags upon request, dinner, breakfast and a s'mores bedtime treat. You bring a toothbrush, pillow, walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothes. This program is for ages 7 and older. *Fee:* \$20 per person. Ask about our next-day Alpine Tower climb discount

#### CAMPING FUN

**Fri-Sat, May 26-27, 6 p.m.-8:30 a.m.**

This program is full of old-fashioned camping fun, with nighttime games, a short night hike, and stories around the campfire. Preregister by 5/22.

#### AMERICAN EXPLORERS

**Fri-Sat, June 23-24, 6 p.m.-8:30 a.m.**

Spend an evening under the stars and experience Jefferson County the way explorers did on the great adventures in American history. Hear stories about these brave individuals and learn how they survived. Preregister by 6/19.

# mayor's healthy hometown hike



jefferson memorial forest

**Saturday  
April 15  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Harine Section**

Hiking trails from 1.5 to 4.5 miles  
Beginners to experienced  
Fun for the whole family!

For more information and directions, please visit  
[www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)  
Or call 502/574-5220



Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor

### ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY WASTE - GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Please do your part to save trees and keep our costs down. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of future newsletters, please email [forest@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:forest@louisvilleky.gov) with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Please include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, so we can make sure you stop receiving printed copies of the newsletter.

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web • [www.memorialforest.com](http://www.memorialforest.com)

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Permit #1151



**Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor**  
Louisville Metro Council



**Metro Parks**  
[www.metro-parks.org](http://www.metro-parks.org)

**Michael J. Heitz**  
*Director*

**Jerry Brown**  
*Assistant Director*

**Bennett Knox**  
*Park Manager*

**Larry Hilton**  
*Naturalist/  
Land Management*

**Tonya Swan**  
*Coordinator of  
Public Education*

**Christa Weidner**  
*Naturalist/Programs*

**James Crockett**  
**Shawn Nevins**  
*Recreation  
Coordinators*

## TRAIL RANGER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

If you would be interested in learning more about our volunteer Trail Ranger program, contact Forest Naturalist Larry Hilton at [larry.hilton@louisvilleky.gov](mailto:larry.hilton@louisvilleky.gov) or 502/797-5768.

### PROJECT DAY

**Sat, April 8, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

This will be a great opportunity to learn, share, work and have fun with others dedicated to the Forest.

### PROJECT DAY/CAMPOUT AT RANGER CAMPSITE

**Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m. to the next day**

Come share a night around the campfire after dealing with trail issues during the day.

### PROJECT DAY/NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

**Saturday, June 3, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

We will lead hikes, do demonstrations, and staff a booth. Put on some hiking gear to see the Forest with dedicated volunteers who share their time and knowledge.

### GROUP CANOE TRIP

**June 16-17**

We will travel a stream to be determined, based on group size, water levels and weather conditions.

## How Can You Help?

The Forest is always in need of items to supplement our program offerings and enhance visitor experiences. We are currently seeking donations for the following items. If you would like to assist by contributing towards the purchase of these items, you may send a check made payable to the Jefferson Memorial Forest with a signed and dated letter stating the amount of your donation and its intended purpose (i.e., contribution towards purchase of items below). Or you can always make a donation on your next visit to the Welcome Center. Donations are tax deductible; check with your tax consultant. Contributions are sincerely appreciated.

- Interactive nature exhibit for our Welcome Center lobby: \$8,000
- Teepee for our native American Earth Keepers program: \$3,000
- Laptop computer to support our field-based programs: \$1,500
- Utility shed for storage supplies, including our archery program equipment: \$1,200